

GRACE AT THE THRONE OF GRACE

MYSTERIES OF ETERNITY

Hebrews 4:14-16

Seeing then that *we have a great High Priest* who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Last month we spoke about knowing **OUR POSITION IN ETERNITY** In Christ Above ... but when we come to **THE THRONE OF GRACE** we are talking about God's provision for **OUR CONDITION 'IN TIME' SLIDE**
THIS IS ABOUT MY EVERYDAY EXPERIENCE ... The tell-tail word at the end of the text / chapter is **'IN TIME of need'**.

God has not only established my perfected position in eternity by His grace.

God has made provision for my failing condition in time by His Grace

NB: WE ARE NOT 2 PEOPLE (as some preach) WE ARE THE SAME PERSON EXISTING IN 2 DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS – SPIRITUAL & PHYSICAL

NEED IN TIME

NB The whole of chapter 4 ends with the word **'NEED'** telling us that **THE THRONE OF GRACE IS GOD'S PROVISION FOR OUR ONGOING NEED IN EVERYDAY LIFE.**

THERE IS NO NEED IN OUR POSITION with Christ in God above

THERE IS MUCH NEED IN OUR CONDITION here in time on the Earth

I BELIEVE THAT EVERY HUMAN NEED CAN BE MET HERE AT THE THRONE OF GRACE BY GOD'S PROVISION ... 'MERCY & GRACE'.

Here in our text, the writer gives us 2 instructions to get us there

THE FIRST INSTRUCTION SLIDE

To receive God's provision for our need ... our text encourages us to **'come boldly to the throne of grace'** ... but before we are told to do this ... we are told to do another thing. We are told to, **HOLD FAST OUR CONFESSION**

Hebrews 4:14 **SLIDE**

Seeing then that *we have a great High Priest* who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

WHAT IS THIS CONFESSION WE ARE TOLD TO HOLD FAST TO?

Our confession is as it says, Our Great High Priest – Jesus the Son of God – has gone before us & ... with His own blood has paid the penalty for our all our sins PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

The priority for approaching the throne of grace to obtain all God's provision is to know & maintain what Christ has done for us – to know & profess we have absolute forgiveness & acceptance because of His blood

THIS IS REGARDLESS OF HOW WE MIGHT BE FEELING OR FAILING IN OUR PRESENT DAY CIRCUMSTANCES HERE ON EARTH

THIS IS OUR PASSPORT TO APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE. WITHOUT THIS ... WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO APPROACH PROPERLY.

Once a year, on THE DAY OF ATONEMENT, the High priest went into the Holy of Holies to make ATONEMENT (COVERING) for the sins of the people.

He placed the blood of a bull on The Mercy Seat as a payment for Israel's sin. If God accepted the atonement then the priest would live ... if God didn't accept it, the priest would die.

The priest had bells on the bottom of his robe which jingled as he moved to indicate he was still alive. Meanwhile the people all waited with baited breath for the High priest to emerge. THIS MEANT GOD ACCEPTED THEM FOR ANOTHER YEAR. (Lev 16:11-14)

THE WHOLE ISSUE IS ABOUT BEING ACCEPTED BY A HOLY GOD

Hebrews 10:12 **SLIDE**

*But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins for ever**, sat down on the right hand of God;*

THIS IS OUR CONFESSION ... ON THE BASIS OF THIS AND THIS ALONE WE ARE ACCEPTED BY GOD & HAVE A RIGHT TO APPROACH HIM – ON THE BASIS THAT JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST HAS GONE BEFORE US AND PLACED HIS BLOOD ON THE HEAVENLY MERCY SEAT FOR ALL OUR SINS ...

I MUST HOLD FAST (*kratōmen*) to use strength to retain. Determine.

*Sometimes my present condition can seemingly deny what I know & believe God has done for me in Christ & I can be tempted to **give up in discouragement** ... To feel disheartened ... discouraged & **START TO FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF.** I feel like God has rejected me. So I have a pity party & invite others who in the same boat. BUT WE ARE TOLD TO **DETERMINE TO RETAIN WHAT WE PROFESS**; TO NOT FOLLOW OUR EMOTIONAL CONDITION. TO NOT ALLOW OUR CIRCUMSTANCES OR EMOTIONS TO DICTATE THE TERMS*

SLIDE I NOW PROFESS, IN THE FACE OF ALL FAILURE, ALL MY SIN PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE ... HAS NOT JUST BEEN COVERED AS IN THE ATONEMENT, BUT **HAS BEEN COMPLETELY OBLITERATED** TO NEVER BE SEEN AGAIN IN GOD'S SIGHT

I AM **NOW 100% ACCEPTED BY GOD & BLESSED** (Ephesians 1:3-6)
THIS MEANS NO SIN REMAINS ... NO FAILURE IS ACCOUNTED ... I AM ETERNALLY FORGIVEN. I AM DECLARED RIGHTEOUS FOREVER ... BLESSED WITH EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING. GOD NOW IS WELL PLEASED WITH ME BECAUSE OF JESUS' BLOOD

Romans 8:33-34 **SLIDE**

*Who dares accuse us whom **God has chosen for his own?** No one—for **God himself has given us right standing with himself.** ³⁴ **Who then will condemn us?** No one—for **Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading for us.** NLT*

Romans 5:9

And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's condemnation. NLT

BASED UPON THAT, I CAN NOW **COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE** TO RECEIVE ALL GOD'S PROVISION FOR MY FAILING CONDITION. THIS IS THE 2ND INSTRUCTION

THE SECOND INSTRUCTION SLIDE

Hebrews 4:16 **SLIDE**

***Let us therefore come boldly** to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

COME BOLDLY

COME WITH CONFIDENCE *Not because we've been praying ... attending church ... tithing ... being good ETC, but because our great high priest has paid for our sin with his own blood ... NO MATTER HOW YOU MIGHT FEEL or FAIL.*

COME BOLDLY

COME WITHOUT RESTRICTION

THE DEVIL CANNOT STOP YOU WHEN GOD SAYS 'COME' & HE JUST DID!

But you say, 'but I am being spiritually attacked day & night by demons.'
Friend that's because THE DEVIL KNOWS, YOU DON'T KNOW, YOU ARE 100% ACCEPTED BY GOD IN CHRIST **SLIDE**

SATAN CAN HOODWINK YOU INTO BELIEVING HE HAS THAT POWER, BUT HE DOESN'T YOU ARE ALREADY ABOVE HIM SEATED WITH CHRIST IN GOD.

YOU HAVE FREE ACCESS (Ephesians 2:18)

NOTHING CAN STOP YOU FROM COMING CLOSE TO HIM

Romans 8:38-39 **SLIDE**

*I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels **nor demons**, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—**not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.** ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord. NLT*

COME BOLDLY

COME WITH OPENESS (BE REAL)

He's saying, **BE REAL ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL**

Because I'm 100% accepted in Christ, I can now afford to tell God all my failings, all my struggles ... my sins ... all my fears ...

NOT LIKE ADAM WHO HID FROM GOD BECAUSE OF HIS SIN

BECAUSE OUR ACCEPTANCE IS NOT BASED UPON OUR PERFORMANCE ... BUT UPON HIS ... Now we can come & be real about how you feel

COME ... DON'T PRAY

IT DOESN'T SAY PRAY ... IT SAYS 'COME' COME PERSONALLY

BRING YOU ... YOURSELF ... **DON'T JUST SHOVE A NEED-LIST BEFORE THE THRONE & HIDE IN THE SHADOWS ... OR SEND A PRAYER REQUEST WITH SOMEONE & HIDE**

GOD WILL SAY, 'WHO PUT THAT THERE? COME OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF ... I WANT TO SEE YOU, YOURSELF!!! ALL OF YOU WANTS & ALL ...

YOU'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE when you came to the end of your endless prayers & striving ... & you broke & opened your heart & soul to God. YOU BROUGHT YOURSELF.

BUT YOU DIDN'T RECOGNSE WHERE YOU WERE ... YOU WERE AT THE THRONE OF HIS GRACE.

GOD'S TWO FOLD PROVISION

IN THIS PLACE, THERE ARE 2 GREAT PROVISIONS FOR ALL OUR EARTHLY NEEDS. THEY ARE, **MERCY & GRACE**

Hebrews 4:16 **SLIDE**

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that **we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

EXPERIENCING MERCY

NOTICE IT DOESN'T SAY 'ASK' FOR MERCY.

We are told we can **OBTAIN MERCY** at this Throne of Grace

It's vital, we realise that here we don't have to plead for mercy

We did it as Catholics in the mass every Sunday, over & over again, 'Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy ...' over & over again

We don't beg for this mercy ... **WE RECEIVE WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. THIS MERCY WAS ALREADY GRANTED** THE MOMENT YOU BELIEVED IN JESUS. THIS MERCY IS YOURS ALREADY.

WHAT IS THIS MERCY?

THIS MERCY IS HIS LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD TO US REGARDLESS OF ALL OUR FAILINGS

WHY DO I NEED TO OBTAIN MERCY IF I ALREADY HAVE IT?

SLIDE HERE I SEE WHO I AM ABOVE WITH CHRIST IN GOD BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I KNOW HOW I'VE LIVED BELOW IN THE FLESH

I SEE HOW LEGALISTIC ... HOW UNBELIEVING ... HOW HARD I'VE BEEN

MY HEART BREAKS FOR LONGING TO BE WHO I AM ... BUT THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION. THERE IS ONLY LOVING-KINDNESS & UNDERSTANDING

Mercy that overshadows my earthly condition ... my day to day fleshly failings which are more than I realised.

THIS IS MY EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE OF HIS UNDESERVED LOVINGKINDNESS

- This is the washing of my soul based upon the regeneration of my spirit
- This is the wiping away of the feelings of guilt & condemnation which God has already taken away but which I inadvertently keep taking back.
- This is the fresh revelation of His righteousness & divine assurance of my position with Christ in God.
- This is **the shedding of tears** and release of so much earthly pressure & responsibility that has been building up in me without me realising.
- This is the renewed feeling of acceptance after not feeling good enough ... a feeling that creeps up in us insidiously day after day ...
- This is 'words of assurance' that cancel my doubt ...
- This is the cleansing of worldliness ... the unrestricted invitation ... the unconditional acceptance ... the happy welcome
- **This is seeing the smile of God** ... Feeling the touch of His hand ... Hearing the song of His heart ... falling into the hug of His understanding ... Embracing the gentleness of the Holy Spirit ... being carried by His strength ... being separated into the beauty of holiness

THIS IS HIS MERCY & LOVINGKINDNESS WHICH FREELY FLOW FROM THE THRONE OF GRACE. **THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS.**

FINDING GRACE

Hebrews 4:16 **SLIDE**

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and **find** grace to help in time of need.*

OFTEN OUR IMMEDIATE NEED IS SYMPTOMATIC OF A DEEPER NEED

We often go to God to get **the symptoms** fixed. We want the quick fix

But THIS GRACE IS TO MINISTER TO OUR REAL NEED – **THE CAUSE**

THE ALCOHOLIC PRAYS TO STOP DRINKING BUT GOD KNOWS THIS CAME ABOUT BECAUSE OF REJECTION ... BITTERNESS

TO FIND GRACE. Find is progressive – we continue to find – it's ongoing. Find means to come upon; to find by experience; to come to know; to find out for one's self

UNCOVERING THE REAL NEED

THIS IS THE THRONE OF OMNISCIENCE

Jesus said it ...

Matthew 6:8

your heavenly father knows what things you have need of before you ask.

your Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! NLT

NB: THE PRODIGAL SON'S NEED BROUGHT HIM TO HIMSELF & HE WENT HOME OUT OF NEED

- The son was filthy & needed cleaning
- The son was starving & needed feeding

But notice the father didn't minister to his immediate need at the start

HE MINISTERED TO HIS REAL NEED ... HIS DEEPER NEED

- HIS NEED FOR ACCEPTANCE
- HIS NEED FOR AFFECTION
- HIS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
- HIS NEED FOR SEPERATION

LASTLY THE FATHER FED HIM ...

THE LORD OF GRACE KNOWS YOUR TRUE NEED & GIVES GRACE FOR THAT

Jesus forgave the paralytic's sins before he healed his body ...

*Not only to make a point, but **that man needed to know he was forgiven** before the healing could happen*

THIS IS A THRONE OF GRACE NOT A SERVANT OF GRACE

When I was diagnosed with cancer ... I surrendered to God.

I didn't fight it ... I submitted to God and asked for His divine wisdom.

Well, God spoke to me loud & clear ...

*He said, **'This is not about healing ... this is about learning'***

You see, the immediate need was healing, but the greater need was learning.

He knew part of the reason I had this disease was because I had believed

wrong. I had been working for God in my own strength ... striving for success

THIS THONE OVERFLOWS WITH HIS GRACE TO HELP THE RIGHT NEED